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The Council of Seventy.

Dr. John Henry Barrows, a member of the General Chamber of the Council, has completed the preparation of two works, the result of his journey through the East last year. The volumes will be published by McClurg & Co., of Chicago, and are entitled *Christianity, the World Religion* (ten lectures given in India and Japan), and *A World Pilgrimage*, the story of his trip.

Chancellor O. C. S. Wallace, of McMaster University, in addition to his special work of instruction in the English Bible in connection with his own institution, is publishing a series of thirty lessons upon the "Labors and Letters of Paul." These papers are prepared for the Baptist Young People's Union, and are published in the *Baptist Union*.

The seventh meeting of the Maine Ministers' Association was held in High Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in Auburn, November 10, 1897. The meeting consisted of two sessions, in which were discussed such questions as the "Reciprocal Rights of Church and Heretic," "What is the Simple Gospel?" Rev. H. E. Thayer gave a review of Walker's "Some Aspects of the Religious Life of New England." In the evening Dr. Philip S. Moxom, D.D., of Springfield, Mass., delivered an address on "Personal Righteousness." The success of this association is largely due to the efforts of its president, Professor A. W. Anthony, of Cobb Divinity School, a member of the Council. Professor A. W. Anthony has also delivered a course of five lectures at Lisbon, and at West Buxton, Me., on "The Unrecorded Life of Jesus." The titles of the lectures were: "The Brothers of Jesus," "The Education of Jesus," "The Home and Early Circumstances of Jesus," "Apocryphal Lives of Jesus," and "The Development of the Messianic Consciousness."

Professor D. A. McClenahan, of the Allegheny Theological Seminary, on October 25 addressed the United Presbyterian Ministerial Association, of Pittsburg, on "Better Methods in Sabbath School Work." He took occasion to emphasize the failure of present methods

to produce results at all commensurate with the time and effort expended. He advocated the adoption of graded lessons, some plan by which teachers might be carefully prepared for their work, a reduction in the number of classes, and separate class-rooms. On the evening of October 4 Professor McClenahan addressed the teachers and officers of the Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, of Pittsburg, on the same subject.

On October 26 Professor Ira M. Price, of the University of Chicago, addressed the students of Highland Park College, Des Moines, Ia., on "High Ideals," the students of Des Moines College on "Thorough Work," and the Iowa Baptist Education Society on "Bible Study and Spiritual Growth." Professor Price is conducting a class in connection with the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., of Morgan Park Academy, in the study of "The Life of Christ."

At the recent meeting of the Baptist Congress, held in Chicago, Professor E. D. Burton presented a paper on the question, "Are the Teachings of the Apostles as Authoritative as those of Jesus?" This was followed by a discussion of the same subject by Professor Rush Rhees, of the Newton Theological Institution, also a member of the Council.

Commencing with January 1 the American Institute Studies in the *Sunday School Times* will be prepared by Professor Rush Rhees, of Newton Theological Institution. The gospel of Matthew will provide the material for a six-months' series.

The correspondence courses of the Institute reach comparatively few people because of the requirements of time and close study which they exact. Those who do undertake the work, however, find it more satisfactory than any mere outline work. The following statements from one or two of these students are interesting:

"I am now on my second course, and I can say that, speaking from an intellectual standpoint, I have never done any work that has developed independence of thought so much. For, though the Institute supplies guidance and stimulus, the student is made to do the work himself, and room is left for individual thought and development. A whole bibliography of theology is opened up and the results of biblical scholarship brought before one. And yet, while light from every source is welcomed, it is the Bible itself that one is taught to search and love—not to find confirmation of one's own preconceived

ideas, but to find the truth which is to make us free, and, as that truth finds its perfect embodiment in the life and person of Christ, one is ever pointed to him, and the good of all the study is that we may bring our lives and hearts into living touch with him. And so, when I have sometimes become absorbed in the intellectual part of the work, the watchful instructor has put in a word here or there to remind one that truth must become vivified into one's own life and actions, and must not remain any mere abstract possession. I wish I could more adequately express what the Institute has been to me—I wish many more could be brought within its influence and take advantage of its benefits."

"If the first and greatest need of a course in Bible study is not so much reference to written works, compilation of material around the Bible, or the accumulation of these in the student's mind, but rather independence of thought, so that it shall become possible for him, first, to extract, analyze, and interpret for himself, and, then, by the help of books, modify and expand, then the correspondence courses of the Institute amply justify their existence and method. For the experience of the work is that one's own spiritual and intellectual powers are trained to their greater capacity, and one tastes the delight of thinking for oneself, as well as gathering from other minds.

"And although the detail of correspondence work must always be somewhat of a routine and irksome in comparison with recitation, it has decidedly the advantage, in training to accuracy of thought and purity of expression."